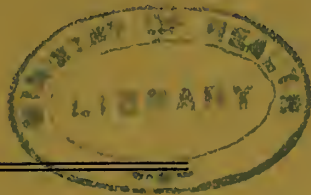


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Borough of Epsom and Ewell



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1945

57731



Borough of Epsom and Ewell

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1945

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.,  
WEST HILL HOUSE,  
WEST HILL,  
EPSOM.

*November, 1946.*

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Epsom and Ewell.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945, which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 28/46.

Vital statistics for the year are satisfactory on the whole, though death rates and tuberculosis rates are higher than the corresponding figures in pre-war years. These matters are discussed in the text of the report, in which I have also made notes on infant mortality and on the incidence of diphtheria. In reporting on the sanitary circumstances of the area I have expressed a hope that it will soon be possible to improve the condition of the Hogsmill stream, by a curtailment of the amount of sewage effluent discharged into it.

An expansion of the Council's health service has been the setting up of a clinic intended primarily to deal with the increased incidence of scabies. The value of the work of this clinic is undoubted.

I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the work of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his sanitary staff, and of the willing and conscientious way in which the clerical staff of the department have carried out their duties.

I have received much encouragement, advice and assistance from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and from the Council generally, for which I tender my thanks. I am grateful for the co-operation which I have received from all officers of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

TABLE I.—COMPARATIVE BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE YEAR 1945:—

|   | <i>England<br/>and<br/>Wales.</i> | <i>Borough of<br/>Epsom &amp;<br/>Ewell.</i> |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.                            |                                   |  |
| BIRTHS—   |                                   |  |
| Live Births ... ..  | 16.1                              | 13.04  |
| Still Births ... ..   | 0.46                              | 0.30   |
| DEATHS—   |                                   |  |
| All Causes ... ..   | 11.4                              | 9.09   |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..                           | 0.00                              | 0.00   |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..  | 0.00                              | 0.00   |
| Whooping Cough ... ..   | 0.02                              | 0.00   |
| Diphtheria ... ..   | 0.02                              | 0.00   |
| Influenza ... ..  | 0.08                              | 0.03   |
| Smallpox ... ..   | 0.00                              | 0.00   |
| Measles ... ..  | 0.02                              | 0.00   |
| NOTIFICATIONS—  |                                   |  |
| Typhoid Fever ... ..  | 0.01                              | 0.06   |
| Paratyphoid Fever ... ..  | 0.01                              | 0.00   |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..                                     | 0.05                              | 0.06   |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..  | 1.89                              | 1.11   |
| Whooping Cough ... ..   | 1.64                              | 2.42   |
| Diphtheria ... ..   | 0.46                              | 0.16   |
| Erysipelas ... ..   | 0.25                              | 0.38   |
| Smallpox ... ..   | 0.00                              | 0.00   |
| Measles ... ..  | 11.67                             | 10.46  |
| Pneumonia ... ..  | 0.87                              | 1.31   |
| Rates per 1,000 Live Births.                                    |                                   |  |
| DEATHS under 1 year of age ... ..                               | 46                                | 31.75  |
| DEATHS from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ... .. | 5.6                               | 3.66   |
| Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).                  |                                   |  |
| MATERNAL MORTALITY—   |                                   |  |
| Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ... ..                       | 0.49                              | 0.00   |
| Other Maternal Causes ... ..                                    | 1.22                              | 1.19   |
| NOTIFICATIONS—  |                                   |  |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..  | 9.93                              | 29.83  |

# Borough of Epsom and Ewell

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## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

### *Medical Officer of Health:*

CYRUS IVE, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.),  
D.P.H.

### *Assistant Medical Officer for Civil Defence:*

HORACE A. NATHAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
(Appointment terminated 30-6-45.)

### *Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

†WM. H. C. HAGGER, M.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

### *Additional Sanitary Inspectors:*

\*†L. H. GRACE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

\*†A. A. ATKINSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Resigned 20-3-45.)

†S. J. T. WOOD, M.S.I.A. (Commenced duties 2-7-45.)

†H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Commenced duties 2-7-45.)

### *Staff of the Scabies Treatment Clinic:*

Miss E. HAUXWELL, S.R.N. (Commenced duties 1-7-45.)

H. GARMAN. (Part time. Commenced duties 1-7-45.)

### *Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff:*

Senior Clerk: C. H. ARGENT. (Temporary.)

Shorthand Typist: Miss N. HEARN. (Temporary.)

### *Chief Sanitary Inspector's Clerical Staff:*

Chief Clerk: H. T. J. WOOLFORD, A.R.San.I.

Shorthand Typist: Miss D. D. WOOD.

Clerk: C. H. AYLING, A.I.H. (H.M. Forces 30-8-40.)

Junior Clerk: D. BRISK. (H.M. Forces 22-9-45.)

Junior Clerk: M. A. FORSHAW. (Temporary. Commenced  
duties 8-10-45.)

(The Medical Officer of Health and his clerical staff act in a similar capacity for the Dorking and Leatherhead Urban Districts and for the Dorking and Horley Rural District.)

\* Holds Sanitary Science Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute.

† Holds The Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

# Borough of Epsom and Ewell

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1945

### 1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS FOR THE AREA.

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Area (acres) ... ..                              | 8,427    |
| Population (Census 1931) ... ..                  | 35,231   |
| Population (estimated mid-year 1945) ... ..      | 62,830   |
| Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate |          |
| Books at 31st December, 1945 ... ..              | 16,240   |
| Rateable value at 31st December, 1945 ... ..     | £693,622 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..           | £2,821   |

The district is a diamond shaped area situated in the central part of the County of Surrey. Its southern boundaries reach the lower slopes of the North Downs. To the north it merges into the built-up area of Greater London. On the east it is separated from the neighbouring district by Nonsuch Park, and on the west by Epsom Common. It is particularly fortunate in possessing a large amount of public and private open space, some of which is in its natural state, and some developed as recreation grounds and parks. The subsoil of the southern third is chalk, and of the remainder clay, save for a narrow strip between these areas in which the Tertiary sands appear. The Hogsmill stream rises in Ewell village in springs derived from the chalk, and traverses the district in a north-easterly direction.

The area is mainly residential in character, a large proportion of the working population taking advantage of easy access to London. Hospitals, racing stables, transport undertakings, and an increasing number of light industries create local employment.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

|                       | <i>Total.</i> | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> |   |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| <i>Live Births:—</i>  |               |           |           |   |
| Total live births     | 819           | 427       | 392       | Birth Rate per<br>1,000 Civilian<br>Population 13.04  |
| Legitimate ...        | 770           | 400       | 370       |   |
| Illegitimate ...      | 49            | 27        | 22        |   |
| <i>Still Births:—</i> |               |           |           |   |
| Total still births    | 19            | 13        | 6         | Rate per 1,000<br>total live and<br>still births 22.6 |
| Legitimate ...        | 18            | 12        | 6         |   |
| Illegitimate ...      | 1             | 1         | —         |   |

|                         | <i>Total.</i> | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> |                      |      |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|------|
| <i>Deaths (net)</i> ... | 571           | 273       | 298       | Crude death rate ... | 9.09 |

*Deaths of Infants under*

*1 year of age:—*

|   |    |    |    |  |      |
|---|----|----|----|--|------|
| Total infant deaths   | 26 | 14 | 12 |  |      |
| Legitimate ...  | 22 | 12 | 10 |  |      |
| Illegitimate ...  | 4  | 2  | 2  |  |      |
| Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births ...                       |    |    |    |  | 31.8 |
| Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...     |    |    |    |  | 28.6 |
| Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... |    |    |    |  | 81.6 |

*Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—*

|                                       | <i>Deaths.</i> | <i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</i> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis... | Nil            | 0.00   |
| Other Maternal Causes ...             | 1              | 1.19   |
|                                       | <hr/> 1 <hr/>  | <hr/> 1.19 <hr/>                                     |

*Deaths from:—*

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Measles (all ages) ...               | —   |
| Whooping Cough (all ages) ...        | —   |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... | 3   |
| Cancer (all ages) ...                | 115 |

Table II shows a comparison of vital statistics for the district since 1931, with the figures for England and Wales during the same period.

## BIRTHS.

Live births accredited to the area by the Registrar General numbered 819, of which 427 were of males and 392 of females, representing a birth rate of 13.0 per 1,000 of the civilian population, compared with the rate of 16.1 for England and Wales. The local birth rate is artificially lowered by the presence of the London County Council Hospitals, whose inmates are included in the resident population, but who make little contribution to the reproductive life of the community. Reference to Table II shows a considerable fall in birth rate compared with the previous year.

Nineteen still-births were registered during the year, giving a still-birth rate of 0.30, compared with the rate of 0.46 per thousand population for England and Wales.



TABLE II.—COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

| Period.   | Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 live births.<br>(Annual Rates 1940—45) |                  | Average Annual Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.<br>(Annual Rates 1940—45) |                  | Average Annual Death Rate of Children under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.<br>(Annual Rates 1940—45) |                  |
|-----------|--|------------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|
|           | England and Wales.   | Epsom and Ewell. | England and Wales.   | Epsom and Ewell. | England and Wales.   | Epsom and Ewell. |
| 1931—1940 | 14.9   | 12.6             | 12.2   | 7.3              | 58   | 41               |
| 1940      | 14.6   | 13.2             | 14.3   | 9.1              | 55   | 30.6             |
| 1941      | 14.2   | 12.1             | 12.9   | 10.2             | 59   | 37.1             |
| 1942      | 15.8   | 16.0             | 11.6   | 9.4              | 49   | 34.6             |
| 1943      | 16.5   | 17.4             | 12.1   | 10.6             | 49   | 35.8             |
| 1944      | 17.6   | 16.3             | 11.6   | 9.9              | 46   | 33.5             |
| 1945      | 16.1   | 13.0             | 11.4   | 9.1              | 46   | 31.8             |

### DEATHS.

The deaths registered in the area after correction for inward and outward transfers numbered 571. This represents a crude death rate of 9.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, compared with the figure of 11.4 for England and Wales.

In Table II will be found crude annual deaths rates covering the period 1931-1945. A marked rise will be noticed to have occurred in 1940 and to have persisted in subsequent years, whereas the corresponding figures for England and Wales show a small but steady decline. The explanation of this local increase lies in administrative arrangements in the Registrar General's office, whereby at the outbreak of war alterations were made in the statistical treatment of transferable deaths to meet the abnormal conditions caused by evacuation. Up to that time the deaths of persons dying in hospitals or institutions were assigned to their place of permanent residence. Under the new arrangement the deaths of many persons occurring in hospitals or institutions were assigned to the area in which the death occurred. The effect of the change was particularly noticeable in this district, which has a large hospital population whose place of residence is normally in one or other of the metropolitan boroughs. There is no evidence that there has been any increase in the death rate of permanent residents. This is confirmed by the fact that the war-time death rates have remained steady, although at the higher level mentioned above. The death rate remains substantially below the figure for England and Wales.

The causes of death are set out in Table III.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL.

| <i>Cause of Death.</i>   | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..                               | —         | —         | —             |
| 2. Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..   | —         | 1         | 1             |
| 3. Scarlet Fever ... ..  | —         | —         | —             |
| 4. Whooping Cough ... ..   | —         | —         | —             |
| 5. Diphtheria ... ..   | —         | —         | —             |
| 6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..                           | 19        | 6         | 25            |
| 7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..                                  | 2         | 2         | 4             |
| 8. Syphilitic Disease ... ..   | 4         | —         | 4             |
| 9. Influenza ... ..  | —         | 2         | 2             |
| 10. Measles ... ..   | —         | —         | —             |
| 11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ... ..                   | —         | —         | —             |
| 12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis ... ..                               | —         | —         | —             |
| 13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males)                     | 9         | —         | 9             |
| 13A. Cancer of Uterus (females) ... ..                                 | —         | 4         | 4             |
| 14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum... ..                               | 6         | 2         | 8             |
| 15. Cancer of Breast ... ..  | —         | 12        | 12            |
| 16. Cancer of all other sites ... ..                                   | 27        | 55        | 82            |
| 17. Diabetes ... ..  | 1         | 2         | 3             |
| 18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..                              | 21        | 45        | 66            |
| 19. Heart Disease ... ..   | 76        | 78        | 154           |
| 20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System... ..                     | 18        | 8         | 26            |
| 21. Bronchitis ... ..  | 14        | 17        | 31            |
| 22. Pneumonia ... ..   | 10        | 10        | 20            |
| 23. Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..                                  | 3         | 3         | 6             |
| 24. Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum ... ..                       | 4         | 1         | 5             |
| 25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..                            | 2         | 1         | 3             |
| 26. Appendicitis ... ..  | 2         | 1         | 3             |
| 27. Other Digestive Diseases ... ..                                    | 5         | 3         | 8             |
| 28. Nephritis ... ..   | 7         | 4         | 11            |
| 29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis... ..                           | —         | —         | —             |
| 30. Other Maternal Causes ... ..                                       | —         | 1         | 1             |
| 31. Premature Birth ... ..   | 5         | 3         | 8             |
| 32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile<br>Disease ... .. | 5         | 6         | 11            |
| 33. Suicide ... ..   | 1         | 3         | 4             |
| 34. Road Traffic Accidents ... ..                                      | 5         | 1         | 6             |
| 35. Other Violent Causes ... ..  | 6         | 5         | 11            |
| 36. All Other Causes ... ..  | 21        | 22        | 43            |
|  | 273       | 298       | 571           |

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants under one year of age number 26, this total including 14 males and 12 females. The infant mortality rate for the year is 31.8 per 1,000 live births, compared with that of 46 for England and Wales.

Reference to Table II shows that a low rate has been maintained through the difficult war-time years, but suggests that the rapid fall which has been noticeable in the past thirty years is now slowing. This is not

unexpected, as a high proportion of the deaths now occurring are due to conditions for which there is no obvious remedy. 8 of the 26 deaths, however, were registered as being due to prematurity, and recent work has proved that, with proper facilities, a number of premature infants can be reared who would otherwise not have survived. To this end a somewhat elaborate system of buildings and staffing is required. When welfare and hospital authorities are in a position to supply these, a further fall in the infant mortality rate may be expected.

## 2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Ministry of Health Emergency Public Health Laboratory, set up at Epsom College as a war-time measure, undertakes the examinations of bacteriological specimens submitted by medical practitioners in connection with the diagnosis and prevention of infectious disease. During the year 1945 the number of specimens sent by practitioners in this district was as follows:—

|                                  |     |     |            |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|-----|
| For the diagnosis of Diphtheria  | ... | ... | ...        | 117 |
| „ „ „ „ Tuberculosis             | ... | ... | ...        | 62  |
| „ „ „ „ Enteric Fever            | ... | ... | ...        | 95  |
| „ „ „ „ Haemolytic Streptococcal |     |     |            |     |
|                                  |     |     | infections | 118 |
| „ „ „ „ Venereal Diseases        | ... | ... | ...        | 8   |

This laboratory also examines and reports on the bacteriological conditions of samples of milk, food and potable water submitted by the Council's Public Health Department. Details of samples submitted are as follows:—

|       |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Water | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Milk  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54 |

The presence of this laboratory in the district has been of great value, and is a notable improvement on previous arrangements, when the only service available was that provided by private laboratories situated in London.

Laboratory examinations required to establish the diagnosis of suspected venereal disease in a communicable stage are arranged for also under the Surrey County Council's Venereal Diseases Scheme.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(1) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Ambulances maintained by the Cuddington Isolation Hospital, Banstead (telephone Vigilant 0048), are used for the removal of cases of infectious disease.

(2) NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.—The Council maintains two ambulances at Langton Avenue, Ewell (telephone Ewell 5395 and 1852), for the conveyance of such cases. Accident cases are conveyed free: for other cases a charge of 7/6 is made for journeys within the

district boundaries, plus a charge of 1/- per mile for journeys outside the boundaries.

In addition the Epsom Ambulance Service, of West Street, Epsom (telephone Epsom 745), maintains two ambulances with a staff of drivers sufficiently large to provide day and night service. The charge is based on mileage at 1/- per mile.

### NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL NURSING.—The greater part of this work is undertaken by two Nursing Associations operating in the district. The Epsom District Nursing Association maintains four nurses at 36, Temple Road, Epsom (Epsom 1153) and the Ewell District Nursing Association employs three nurses at 2, Bypass Road, Ewell (Ewell 2022). Both these associations are supported financially partly by members' subscriptions and partly by donations. Nurses are available for non-members on payment of a fee.

(b) NURSING OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE. There is no special provision for the nursing of such cases.

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) MATERNITY, CHILD WELFARE AND TUBERCULOSIS.—The County Council is the responsible authority for these services. County Council Health Centres are situated at 44, Waterloo Road, Epsom, and at Ewell Court House, off Kingston Road, Ewell. The Epsom Health Centre also serves as the tuberculosis dispensary for Epsom and Ewell, Leatherhead and part of Banstead.

(b) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—Clinics for immunisation against diphtheria are held by the Medical Officer of Health at the County Council Health Centres, and with the assistance of the County Council Health Visitors. Most valuable help is also given by voluntary workers. Further information regarding diphtheria immunisation is given in the section of this report dealing with infectious diseases.

(c) SCABIES TREATMENT.—To meet the greatly increased incidence of Scabies which has occurred during the war in this district, in common with the whole country, treatment centres were established in 1942 at First Aid Posts in Epsom and Ewell, and were staffed by the personnel of these as an additional duty. The introduction of treatment by Benzyl Benzoate emulsion at about that time enabled very effective work to be done, much suffering relieved and loss of valuable time avoided. Following the disbandment of the First Aid Post organisation in June, the Council decided to retain the services of a trained nurse and a male nursing auxiliary to continue the work of Scabies treatment in premises at the rear of "The Cedars," Church Street, Epsom. The function of the clinic is essentially treatment, and patients are not accepted unless referred by a medical practitioner. Emphasis is laid on the importance of prophylactic treatment for close contacts.

The clinic has also been used in assisting persons to rid themselves of infestation by head or body louse. Experience suggests that body louse infestation is rare in this district; head louse infestation is a more common occurrence, usually detected by the health visitors at the medical inspections of school children.

The facilities of the clinic are open to the residents of the Leatherhead Urban District, whose Council undertake a proportionate share in the running costs. During the year 559 persons attended, of whom 108 were Leatherhead residents.

The careful work of Miss E. Hauxwell, the trained nurse in charge of the clinic, and of Mr. H. Garman, male orderly, has enhanced its value.

(d) **VENEREAL DISEASES.**—The Surrey County Council is the authority responsible for the administration of matters dealing with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases.

(e) **BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE.**—The South London Blood Transfusion Depot, situated at Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey (telephone number Vigilant 0068) has a day and night service for the issuing of blood for transfusion purposes. This can be obtained by medical practitioners on application direct to them.

A time-table of clinics available is set out below:—

---

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Ante-natal Clinic</i>                                 | ... Epsom County Hospital.                                     | Monday and Thursday at 1.30 p.m.                       |
|  | Ewell Court House,<br>Kingston Road, Ewell.                    | Friday 1.45 p.m.                                       |
| <i>Child Welfare Clinics</i>                             | ... 44, Waterloo Road,<br>Epsom.                               | Monday and Wednesday 2—4 p.m.                          |
|  | Ewell Court House,<br>Kingston Road, Ewell.                    | Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1.30—4 p.m.               |
| <i>General School Medical<br/>Minor Ailments Clinics</i> | 44, Waterloo Road,<br>Epsom.                                   | Wednesdays 9.30—12 a.m.                                |
|  | Ewell Court House,<br>Kingston Road, Ewell.                    | Tuesday 1.30 p.m.                                      |
| <i>Chest Clinic</i>                                      | ... 44, Waterloo Road,<br>Epsom.                               | Thursday 2 p.m.<br>Every 3rd Thursday 5.30 p.m.        |
| <i>Venereal Diseases Clinics</i>                         | St. Helier Hospital,<br>Wrythe Lane, Carshalton.               | Males: Mondays 5—7 p.m.<br>Females: Wednesday 5—7 p.m. |
|  | County Hospital,<br>Wolverton Avenue,<br>Kingston-upon-Thames. | Fridays 1.30—3.30 p.m.<br>Females: Thursday 5—7 p.m.   |

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(And at the Out-patient Departments of many London Hospitals.)

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|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Diphtheria<br/>Immunisation Clinics</i> | 44, Waterloo Road,<br>Epsom.                | By appointment on application to Medical Officer of Health or Health Visitor. |
|  | Ewell Court House,<br>Kingston Road, Ewell. |   |

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### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(a) **GENERAL AND MATERNITY.**—The Epsom and Ewell Cottage Hospital is a voluntary hospital with a total of 40 beds, including 6 private beds, and provides for medical, surgical and abnormal midwifery cases. Normal midwifery cases are not admitted. The Hospital also maintains Out-Patient, Massage and X-Ray Departments.

The Epsom County Hospital is under the control of the Surrey County Council and has accommodation for more than 300 patients. It has been modernised within the past few years and every class of case is accepted for treatment, including normal midwifery cases.

(b) **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**—With the exception of smallpox, patients suffering from acute infectious disease requiring isolation and treatment in hospital are admitted to the Cuddington Isolation Hospital, situated on Banstead Downs. This hospital is administered by the Cuddington Joint Hospital Board, composed of representatives from the five constituent local authorities.

Accommodation for cases of smallpox is provided by the Surrey County Council in the Clandon Smallpox Hospital.

The Surrey County Council is responsible for the provision of institutional treatment for persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

### 3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER.

That part of the district constituting the parish of Epsom is supplied by water from the Council's undertaking. The water is obtained from deep wells, borings and adits in the chalk situated in East Street, and is chlorinated before distribution. No softening is carried out.

Frequent bacteriological samples and chemical samples of raw and treated water have been taken under the direction of the Borough Water Engineer. The results show that the raw water and the water pumped to supply have been of excellent quality.

Ewell and the greater part of Cuddington are supplied by the Sutton District Water Company with a softened water derived from wells in the chalk situated at Cheam, Sutton and Woodmansterne. Frequent samples have been taken at domestic premises in this area, and results found to be satisfactory. Copies of analytical results have also been received at regular intervals of samples taken by the Company's officials.

For reference, details are set out of typical results of chemical analyses of samples taken in the areas of supply of the Borough Water Undertaking and of the Sutton District Water Company.

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000.

## BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL WATER UNDERTAKING.

|                                    |     |        |                                 |      |               |
|------------------------------------|-----|--------|---------------------------------|------|---------------|
| Reaction pH Neutral                | ... | 7.1    | Free Carbonic Acid              | ...  | 2.6           |
| Electric Conductivity at 20°C.     | ... | 470    | Total Solids, dried at 180°C.   | ...  | 31.5          |
| Chlorine in Chlorides              | ... | 1.3    | Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate | ...  | 23.0          |
| Hardness: Total                    | ... | 26.0   | Temporary                       | 21.0 | Permanent 5.0 |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates               | ... | 0.44   | Nitrogen in Nitrates            | ...  | Absent        |
| Free Ammonia                       | ... | 0.0000 | Ammoniacal Nitrogen             | ...  | —             |
| Albuminoid Ammonia                 | ... | 0.0000 | Albuminoid Nitrogen             | ...  | —             |
| Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. | ... | 0.000  |                                 |      |               |
| Iron                               | ... | 0.010  |                                 |      |               |
| Metals—Zinc                        | ... | 0.1    | Other metals absent.            |      |               |

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000.

## SUTTON DISTRICT WATER COMPANY.

|                                      |     |                |   |     |       |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----------------|---|-----|-------|
| Total Solids (dried at 120°C.)       | ... | 26.0           | Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.                   | ... | 0.015 |
| Combined Chlorine (as Cl)            | ... | 2.10           | Lead or Copper  | ... | Nil   |
| equivalent to Sodium Chloride (NaCl) | ... | 3.47           | Temporary Hardness (equivalent to CaCO)               | ... | 7.0   |
| Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)           | ... | 1.04           | Permanent Hardness (equivalent to CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) | ... | 4.0   |
| Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)          | ... | Traces present | Total Hardness (equivalent to CaCO <sub>3</sub> )     | ... | 11.0  |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen                  | ... | 0.0004         |   |     |       |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen                  | ... | 0.0004         |   |     |       |

A number of houses in the northern part of the area are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board and one cottage on the south-west outskirts of Epsom by the East Surrey Water Company.

One house only in the district is reported to be dependent on a stand-pipe for its supply.

Three houses obtain water for domestic purposes from wells or by the conservation of rain water.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sewage from the Borough is dealt with at Works situated at Hook Road, Epsom, and off Ruxley Lane, Ewell.

The sewage from Epsom (including the London County Council Institutions) is delivered to the Hook Road Works, where part is treated by the Simplex Aeration Plant. The remainder gravitates to or is pumped and distributed over the land, passing finally through contact beds, storm water tanks being brought into operation during heavy flows. The whole of the effluent drains to a tributary of the River Hogsmill and amounts to about 1,600,000 gallons per day dry weather flow.

Sewage from Ewell and Cuddington (other than from a small area which discharges by arrangement to the Sutton and Cheam Works) gravitates to the Ruxley Works. From the West Ewell district sewage is pumped to a balancing tank where it combines with sewage from Chessington within the Borough of Surbiton. Treatment is by settling tanks, percolating filters and contact beds and finally through humus

tanks. Sludge is dealt with on sludge drying beds and storm water by a storm water tank. The whole of the effluent flows to the River Hogsmill, the dry weather flow being approximately 940,000 gallons per day.

Auxiliary treatment plant has now been constructed at Hook Road Works to treat the increased flow from the London County Council Hospitals due to war-time conditions. The plant consists of a small electric pumping station and two rectangular settling tanks. Additional treatment plant has also been constructed at the Ruxley Works for treating sewage and process waste from certain Government buildings which have been erected at Chessington.

### CESSPOOL AND PRIVIES.

There are approximately 136 cesspools in the Borough. Houses without water closets number 29, use being made of pail closets, chemical closets or privies.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Complaints were received during the year of offensive smells from the Hogsmill river and tributary streams. Samples were taken from the river above and below the points receiving effluent from the Corporation's Sewage Farms and submitted for bacteriological examination. The samples taken from the river above its junction with the tributary which receives the sewage effluent were satisfactory, but those from the tributary and lower course of the river showed a heavy contamination of faecal matter. These results are not surprising, considering the large volume of effluent which is passed into a comparatively small stream.

Complaints were also received regarding the condition of a section of the river which is diverted, under normal conditions, near the Tolworth Bridge and flows parallel with Worcester Park Road. It was found that, owing to the collapse of the river bank and obstructions in its course, the water was overflowing to a lower stream, leaving its bed partly exposed, and partly covered by stagnant pools. The matter was reported to the Surrey County Council and the main bed of the river was subsequently cleared and the bank made good.

Progress with the Hogsmill Valley Joint Sewerage scheme has been seriously delayed by the war. Should the scheme be implemented, one very beneficial result would be the elimination of the discharge of sewage effluent into the Hogsmill stream. Were that achieved, there would be an opportunity for the stream to regain something of its departed beauty, and to become an attractive and healthy place for play and recreation, attributes which cannot be claimed for it in its present condition, even by the least critical.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) COLLECTION OF REFUSE.—It has not been possible for the Council to return to its pre-war custom of arranging a weekly collection of house refuse. Refuse is therefore left in bins on private premises longer than is desirable, and frequent complaints have been received of this and of overloading of bins. These conditions have contributed to the undoubted increase in rats and flies in the district. The latter pest has also been encouraged by the numerous receptacles distributed throughout the district for the collection of pig food. Clearly this form of salvage must continue while the food shortage lasts, but its discontinuance in its present form will be one of the advantages of a return to more normal conditions.

(b) DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.—Disposal of household and trade refuse continues to be partly by incineration at the Epsom Sewage Works, and partly by tipping at the disused brick works in East Street. An important advantage of the latter system is the reclamation of useless land, which if left would tend to become a permanent eyesore and nuisance. It cannot be denied, however, that the Council's tip has been unpopular with many residents in its vicinity, particularly by reason of its encouragement of crickets and flies. Help and advice has been given on many occasions to householders. Complaints have been brought to the attention of the Borough Engineer, who has arranged for disinfection work to be carried out which, on the whole, has been successful.

THE RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919,  
AND INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

A full-time Rodent Officer's Assistant is employed by the Corporation and his work is carried out under the general supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

While it is the duty of the occupier of any premises to take such steps as may be necessary for the destruction and prevention of rats and mice, advice and assistance is given to persons who report any infestation or apply for information as to preventive measures. Assistance is given by means of hunts with dogs and ferrets, trapping, poisoned baits or gassing.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Assistant and particulars of the number of rats caught and destroyed by employees at the Sewage Farm, also on L.C.C. Estates in the Borough, where a rat-catcher is employed:—

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Number of complaints and reports received and investigated during<br>the year | ... .. | 531        |
| Number of inspections and visits  | ... .. | 1415       |
| " " hunts with dogs and ferrets   | ... .. | 165        |
| " " cases where poisoned baits used   | ... .. | 343        |
| Number of rats known to have been caught and destroyed by:—                   |        |            |
| (a) the Corporation's Rodent Officer's Assistant                              | ... .. | 905        |
| (b) by employees at Sewage Farm   | ... .. | 113        |
| (c) on L.C.C. premises  | ... .. | 1727       |
| Total   | ... .. | <hr/> 2745 |

## MORTUARY.

Fifty-four bodies have been admitted to the Mortuary, on all of which post-mortem examinations were held. The number includes 15 bodies received from outside districts.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to Mr. Wm. H. C. Hagger, M.R.San.I., F.S.I.A., the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for particulars of the work performed under his supervision during 1945.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS AND OTHER DEPARTMENTAL WORK.

|   | <i>Number</i> |
|---|---------------|
| DWELLING-HOUSES.  |               |
| Inspections under Public Health or Housing Act ... ..                                 | 332           |
| Re-inspections or visits re work in progress ... ..                                   | 481           |
| Visits in connection with Overcrowding ... ..   | 15            |
| Visits in connection with Billeting ... ..  | 332           |
| FOOD PREMISES. Inspections, re-inspections and visits to:—                            |               |
| Bakehouses ... ..   | 29            |
| Butchers and Slaughter-houses ... ..  | 81            |
| Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops ... ..  | 39            |
| Food Shops, Market Stalls, Refreshment Rooms, Kitchens, etc. ...                      | 90            |
| Visits re unsound food (not included above) ... ..                                    | 288           |
| OTHER PREMISES.   |               |
| Factories, Outworkers' Premises and Offices ... ..                                    | 65            |
| Schools ... ..  | 22            |
| Swimming Baths ... ..   | 7             |
| Shops under Shops Acts ... ..   | 12            |
| Stables, Pigsties and Manure Pits ... ..  | 34            |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..  | 8             |
| OTHER INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.   |               |
| Inspections under P.H. Act (other than dwelling houses) ... ..                        | 420           |
| Visits re Infectious Disease ... ..   | 210           |
| Visits for inspecting, testing or in connection with drainage ...                     | 384           |
| Inspections by Sanitary Inspectors under Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 ... .. | 130           |
| Smoke observations ... ..   | 2             |
| Visits in connection with Civil Defence ... ..  | 10            |
| Miscellaneous inspections and visits ... ..   | 370           |
| Total ... ..  | 3361          |
| Number of smoke or water tests applied to new or repaired drainage                    | 44            |
| Number of Water Samples taken from main supplies... ..                                | 17            |
| Number of samples taken from rivers and streams, etc. ... ..                          | 7             |
| Number of Milk Samples taken ... ..   | 54            |
| NUISANCES AND DEFECTS.  |               |
| Number of nuisances and defects discovered:—  |               |
| under Public Health Acts ... ..   | 653           |
| ,, Housing Acts ... ..  | 21            |
| NOTICES.  |               |
| Number of Notices served:—  |               |
| Statutory ... ..  | 3             |
| Informal ... ..   | 210           |
| Number of Notices complied with... ..   | 176           |
| Number of Notices outstanding at end of year ... ..                                   | 37            |

COMPLAINTS.—During the year 1,114 complaints (including 531 concerning rat infestation) were received, investigated, and steps taken to ensure abatement of nuisances found to exist.

#### NUISANCES ABATED AND REPAIR WORK CARRIED OUT.

|  | <i>Number</i> |
|--|---------------|
| Choked drains cleared ... ..                                   | 143           |
| Drains repaired or relaid ... ..                               | 27            |
| Inspection chambers built or repaired ... ..                   | 34            |
| W.C.'s repaired or renewed ... ..                              | 28            |
| W.C. flushing cisterns repaired or renewed ... ..              | 24            |
| Soil or vent pipes repaired or renewed ... ..                  | 11            |
| Gullies or waste pipes repaired or renewed ... ..              | 49            |
| Sinks or wash-basins repaired or renewed ... ..                | 28            |
| Cesspools repaired, emptied or cleansed ... ..                 | 6             |
| Water service pipes repaired or renewed ... ..                 | 13            |
| Eaves guttering and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed ... .. | 19            |
| Dustbins provided ... ..                                       | 125           |
| Yard paving provided or repaired ... ..                        | 7             |
| Roofs repaired ... ..  | 20            |
| Doors or windows repaired or renewed ... ..                    | 14            |
| Lighting and ventilation improved ... ..                       | 4             |
| Fireplaces and ranges repaired or renewed ... ..               | 8             |
| Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt ... ..                      | 4             |
| Hot water systems repaired ... ..                              | 3             |
| Coppers provided or repaired ... ..                            | 2             |
| Floors repaired or renewed ... ..                              | 33            |
| Walls or ceiling plaster repaired ... ..                       | 29            |
| Walls or ceilings cleansed ... ..                              | 71            |
| Dampness remedied ... ..                                       | 24            |
| Brickwork or external rendering repaired or renewed ... ..     | 12            |
| Offensive accumulations removed ... ..                         | 10            |
| Cowsheds or dairies cleansed and limewashed ... ..             | 10            |
| Bakehouses cleansed ... ..                                     | 16            |
| Slaughter-houses, Stables or Pigsties cleansed ... ..          | 5             |
| Animals improperly kept ... ..                                 | 8             |
| Miscellaneous defects remedied ... ..                          | 34            |
| Houses disinfected after infectious disease ... ..             | 75            |
| Houses disinfected after Tuberculosis ... ..                   | 7             |
| Disinfection by request (cost defrayed) ... ..                 | 13            |
| Disinfestation of rooms, etc., for bugs and other pests ... .. | 22            |

SHOPS.—During the year 12 shops were inspected under the Shops Act, 1934. Only a few minor offences were found which were attended to after verbal notice.

CAMPING SITES.—There are no recognised camping sites within the Borough, and no licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

#### FACTORIES.

Sixty-five inspections and re-inspections were made during the year to 34 factories with mechanical power and two factories without mechanical power. The general sanitary conditions found were satisfactory, but the following is a summary of defects and infringements discovered. In most cases the matters were attended to after verbal notice, but written notice was necessary in 4 instances.

## DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

|  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Want of cleanliness                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9  |
| Other offences                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints received during the year requiring action under the Smoke Abatement Act.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Municipal Baths are situated in East Street, Epsom, and comprise a covered swimming bath (convertible into a Hall), Turkish, Foam and Slipper Baths, and a Café.

There is one privately owned swimming pool in the Borough open to the general public. The pool is equipped with plant for continuous filtration and chlorination. At the end of the year a new building was in course of erection which will provide proper sanitary accommodation for males and females.

Other bathing pools in the Borough are provided in connection with schools and clubs, and are not open to the general public.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Nine houses were dealt with for bug infestation. Disinfestation was carried out by means of spraying with an Insecticide, the work being done by this Department in co-operation with the respective owners of the premises.

## MOSQUITO CONTROL.

Continuing the practice of former years, control measures were carried out in Wilmerhatch Lane area. Very few complaints of nuisance from mosquitoes were received following the treatment of the ponds and pools.

## SCHOOLS.

Inspections of drainage and sanitary fittings at private and elementary schools have been carried out during the year. There are known to be 25 private schools in the Borough. Repairs and additions to sanitary accommodation have been carried out.

One private school was found to be overcrowded, and on request arrangements were made to reduce the number of pupils attending.

## 4.—HOUSING.

I.—*Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:*

|  |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number inspected                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 332 |
| (b) Number of inspections made                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 813 |
| (2) (a) Inspected under Housing Acts           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| (b) Number of Inspections made                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7   |
| (3) Number found unfit                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (4) Number found not to be in all respects fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |

*II.—Remedy of defects:*

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Number of houses rendered fit ... .. | 1 |
|--------------------------------------|---|

*III.—Remedy under Statutory Powers:*

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... .. | Nil |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:                                   |     |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses ... ..  | 3   |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—              |     |
| (a) By owners ... ..  | 2   |
| (b) By Local Authority ... ..   | Nil |
| (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..    | Nil |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..            | Nil |

**OVERCROWDING.**

It is extremely difficult under existing conditions to estimate the number of houses in the Borough which are overcrowded. Cases are only brought to light by inspection on complaint or through applications for housing accommodation, and information is not always received when overcrowding has been abated.

During the year applications have been received in respect of 3 houses as to the "permitted number" of occupants. In each case the house was measured up and an official Certificate granted.

**REHOUSING.**

In common with every other district in the country, a long list of applications for Council houses has accumulated, and obviously cannot be satisfied for some years. In the meantime, the Council have adopted the policy of allocating such accommodation as is available to those in greatest need. Special consideration has been, or will be, given to local families rendered homeless by enemy action, to families forced to divide through lack of room, to families with young children living under very unsatisfactory conditions, and to families in which there is a tuberculous member likely to spread infection to others by reason of bad environment. I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following details of rehousing carried out in 1945:—

(1) *Bombed-out Families:*

35 families rehoused—in large houses requisitioned and converted into flats. A total of 172 "bombed-out" families have now been rehoused.

(2) *Overcrowding:*

10 families rehoused—6 in pre-war houses falling vacant and four in newly erected prefabricated bungalows.



(3) *Families with a tuberculous member:*

2 families rehoused in prefabricated bungalows.

In addition, "emergency accommodation" was acquired to rehouse 12 families, most of whom had been rendered homeless as the result of eviction orders having been made against them.

## 5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## (A) MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were 15 entries on the Register of Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Retail Purveyors of Milk as follows:—

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Cowkeepers (wholesale traders) ... ..                 | 3         |
| „ (and Retail Purveyors) ... ..                       | 1         |
| Retail Purveyors (premises within the Borough) ... .. | 6         |
| „ „ (premises outside the Borough) ... ..             | 5         |
| Total ... ..  | <u>15</u> |

The four producers were granted licences by the Surrey County Council for the production and sale of "Accredited" Milk.

Routine inspections of all cowsheds and dairy premises have been carried out, and it has been found that the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, have been observed.

At the end of the year there were approximately 120 milch cows in the Borough exclusive of those kept at the L.C.C. Farms.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 TO 1943.—The following licences to sell graded milk were granted in 1945:—

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Tuberculin Tested (Dealers) ... .. | 6         |
| „ „ (Supplementary) ... ..         | 4         |
| Pasteurised (Pasteurisers) ... ..  | 2         |
| „ (Dealers) ... ..                 | 8         |
| „ (Supplementary) ... ..           | 5         |
| Total ... ..                       | <u>25</u> |

MILK SAMPLING.—During the year 54 samples of milk were taken at farms and from retail purveyors. The samples were immediately dispatched to the Ministry of Health Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Epsom College, for bacteriological examination.

The following is a summary of the tests carried out and an analysis of the results:—

*Number of Milk Samples taken:—*

|                   |     |     |     |     |     |           |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Tuberculin Tested | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1         |
| „ „ (Pasteurised) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2         |
| Pasteurised       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26        |
| Ordinary          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25        |
| Total             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | <u>54</u> |

*Summary of results of tests:—*

*Tuberculin Tested Milk.*

|                                    |     |     |     |     |   |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Number of samples taken            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Methylene Blue test (satisfactory) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Coliform bacilli (absent in 1 ml.) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

*Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.*

|                                    |     |     |     |     |   |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Numbers of samples taken           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Methylene Blue test (satisfactory) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Coliform bacilli (absent in 1 ml.) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Phosphatase test (satisfactory)    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

*Pasteurised Milk.*

|   |     |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of samples taken                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Methylene Blue test (satisfactory)      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Bacterial count (under 100,000 per ml.) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Phosphatase test (satisfactory)         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| „ „ (unsatisfactory)                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |

ORDINARY MILK.—The majority of these samples were taken from retailers who obtained their supplies from accredited producers, but the milk was not sold under the designation of “accredited.”

While there is no recognised bacteriological standard for ordinary milk the following tests were carried out for comparative purposes:—

|  |     |     |     |     |    |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of samples taken                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Methylene Blue test (satisfactory)     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Coliform bacilli (absent in 1/100 ml.) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| „ „ (present in 1/100 ml.)             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8  |

From the result of these tests it will be seen that all the samples of designated milk, with the exception of one pasteurised sample, complied with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

The samples of ordinary milk in most cases compared very favourably with the standard of designated milk, but in eight samples of the twenty-five taken, coliform bacilli was found to be present in 1/100 ml. These cases were all investigated and further samples taken proved satisfactory.

## (B) MEAT. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There is only one slaughter-house in the Borough which is licensed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and this is out of regular use owing to the centralised slaughtering scheme of the Ministry of Food. Arrangements have been made with local pig-keepers to use this slaughter-house for the occasional slaughter of pigs.

Twenty-eight pigs have been slaughtered under licence granted by the Local Food Executive Committee. In all cases the carcasses and organs were inspected and found satisfactory, with the exception of one pig's head which was found diseased and subsequently surrendered for destruction.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.—Nine applications for the renewal of licences to slaughter animals under the above Act were received and considered by the Council. In each case the licence was granted.

Wherever possible, foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption are disposed of for animal feeding (if not diseased) or utilised for other practical purposes to avoid waste.

BUTCHERS' SHOPS AND STALLS, ETC.—There are 35 butchers' shops in the Borough, also one market stall, which have been periodically inspected. A refrigerator or other means of cold storage is provided at each shop, and 29 of the shops have permanent glass windows to protect the meat from dust, etc., from the highway.

#### (c) BAKEHOUSES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

BAKEHOUSES.—Twenty-nine inspections have been made of the 17 bakehouses on the Register, when cleansing and minor defects were attended to on request.

OTHER FOOD PREMISES.—Inspections have been made of shops and other premises where food is prepared or sold.

#### ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The Surrey County Council continue to administer the sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with the adulteration of food. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the information that a total of 59 samples for analysis were taken in this district by his staff. These included 20 samples of milk, 10 of wine, 10 of spirits, 5 of jam, and 14 of miscellaneous articles. Seven samples of wine, 1 of milk and 1 of sausages were found to be below standard. Proceedings were instituted in the case of one sample of wine, the case being dismissed on payment of costs.



## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

### (1) NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Table IV shows the total of the various infectious diseases notified during 1945, classified according to age and sex, together with the number of cases removed to isolation hospital, and the total deaths if any from each disease. Table V shows the number of cases notified from the Epsom County Hospital and the London County Council Hospitals. Comparison of these tables indicates that the presence of the institutions has a considerable effect on the incidence of certain infectious diseases.

A complete analysis of the circumstances relating to each notification is not set out, but attention is drawn to matters which are considered to be of current interest or importance.

**SMALLPOX.**—No case of smallpox was notified during the year. No primary vaccination or re-vaccination was performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

**SCARLET FEVER.**—Seventy cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, compared with seventy-nine in 1944. The case-rate per 1,000 population was 1.11 compared with the rate of 1.89 for England and Wales.

The disease was generally of a mild character and no death occurred. Of the seventy cases occurring in private houses twenty-seven patients were nursed at home, equivalent to 38.5% of the total cases notified. The remaining patients were admitted to hospital.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—Ten cases of diphtheria were notified, compared with six cases in the previous year. The case-rate per 1,000 population was 0.16, compared with the rate of 0.46 for England and Wales. Of the ten cases notified, five were patients and one a member of the staff of an L.C.C. Hospital. The member of the staff was removed to Cuddington Hospital, as were the four cases occurring in private residence. One of the County Council patients died of the disease, though for purposes of registration the death was transferred to the district of her permanent residence, and does not appear in local records. Six patients were removed to Cuddington Hospital for suspected diphtheria, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Of the four cases occurring in private households, two were school children, both of whom had received previous treatment for immunisation. Both had very mild attacks, and made uncomplicated recoveries. The source of infection in these cases was not discovered. The third case was a young woman who had not been immunised. Her attack was a severe one, necessitating a stay of two months in hospital. The source of her infection was traced to a neighbouring district in which she had visited, and the information given to the Medical Officer of Health of that district regarding her movements enabling him to ascertain the occurrence of hitherto unsuspected cases of the disease. The fourth

patient was also a young woman who had not been immunised. She had an extremely severe illness, necessitating a stay of more than three months in hospital. The source of her infection was not definitely traced, but was undoubtedly in a coast town at which she had spent a short holiday, where diphtheria was known to be prevalent at the time.

TABLE IV.

| Diseases              | Cases Notified. |    |        |    |        |    |         |     |          |    |          |   |             |    |          |     | Total all ages both sexes | Cases admitted to Isolation hospital |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----|--------|----|--------|----|---------|-----|----------|----|----------|---|-------------|----|----------|-----|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                       | Under 1 yr.     |    | 1 to 3 |    | 3 to 5 |    | 5 to 10 |     | 10 to 15 |    | 15 to 25 |   | 25 and over |    | All ages |     |                           |                                      |
|                       | M               | F  | M      | F  | M      | F  | M       | F   | M        | F  | M        | F | M           | F  | M        | F   |                           |                                      |
| Scarlet Fever ...     | —               | —  | 1      | —  | 6      | 1  | 28      | 117 | 4        | 4  | 1        | 3 | 4           | 1  | 44       | 26  | 70                        | 43                                   |
| Whooping Cough        | 5               | 7  | 17     | 22 | 18     | 17 | 22      | 39  | —        | 1  | —        | — | —           | 4  | 62       | 90  | 152                       | 7                                    |
| Measles ...           | 10              | 11 | 69     | 57 | 56     | 37 | 187     | 147 | 35       | 12 | 15       | 8 | 2           | 11 | 374      | 283 | 657                       | 11                                   |
| Diphtheria ...        | —               | —  | —      | —  | —      | —  | —       | 1   | —        | 1  | —        | 2 | 1           | 5  | 1        | 9   | 10                        | 5                                    |
| Pneumonia ...         | —               | 2  | 4      | 4  | —      | —  | 5       | 1   | 2        | 1  | 2        | 1 | 23          | 37 | 36       | 46  | 82                        | —                                    |
| Dysentery ...         | —               | —  | 2      | 2  | 1      | —  | 2       | 2   | —        | —  | —        | 7 | 32          | 93 | 37       | 104 | 141                       | 12                                   |
| Typhoid Fever ...     | —               | —  | —      | —  | —      | —  | —       | 1   | 1        | —  | —        | — | —           | 2  | 1        | 3   | 4                         | 3                                    |
| Erysipelas ...        | —               | —  | —      | —  | 1      | —  | —       | —   | —        | —  | —        | — | 6           | 17 | 7        | 17  | 24                        | 1                                    |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever. | —               | —  | —      | 1  | —      | —  | —       | —   | 2        | —  | —        | — | 1           | —  | 3        | 1   | 4                         | 1                                    |
| Puerperal Pyrexia     | —               | —  | —      | —  | —      | —  | —       | —   | —        | —  | —        | 5 | —           | 20 | —        | 25  | 25                        | —                                    |
| Ophthalmia            | —               | —  | —      | —  | —      | —  | —       | —   | —        | —  | —        | — | —           | —  | —        | —   | —                         | —                                    |
| Neonatorum            | 2               | —  | —      | —  | —      | —  | —       | —   | —        | —  | —        | — | —           | —  | 2        | —   | 2                         | —                                    |

TABLE V.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED BY INSTITUTIONS.

| Diseases.                 | L.C.C. Hospitals. | Epsom County Hospital. | Horton E.M.S. Hospital. | Total. |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Typhoid Fever ...         | 1                 | —                      | —                       | 1      |
| Diphtheria ...            | 6                 | —                      | —                       | 6      |
| Dysentery ...             | 118               | 10                     | 4                       | 132    |
| Pneumonia ...             | 24                | —                      | —                       | 24     |
| Erysipelas ...            | 4                 | 3                      | —                       | 7      |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...  | —                 | 2                      | —                       | 2      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ...     | —                 | 21                     | —                       | 21     |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... | —                 | 2                      | —                       | 2      |
| Measles ...               | —                 | 2                      | 1                       | 3      |
|                           | 153               | 40                     | 5                       | 198    |

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.—Progress has been made during the year with the Council's scheme for immunisation against diphtheria. Clinics are held at regular intervals at the Health Centres in Waterloo Road, Epsom, and Ewell Court House, Ewell. Attendance at these clinics is free of charge. During the year 1945, 853 children received

primary treatment and 221 received reinforcing doses. Of the former 646 were aged between 1 and 2 years, which represents 65.6% of the 985 births registered in the district in the previous year.

For parents who desire to have their children treated by their private medical practitioner, arrangements are made for the immunising material to be supplied free of charge to the doctor, the fee for treatment being a matter for private arrangement between the parents and the practitioner.

Active immunisation against diphtheria has now been in operation in the Borough since 1935 and can claim a part in the reduction of the incidence and mortality rates which has occurred. The downward tendency of these rates, particularly when they relate to private residents, can be seen by referring to Table VI.

At the end of 1945, 2,451 children under the age of 5 years, and 5,624, aged 5 to 15 years, are known to have received treatment, equivalent to percentages of 57% and 77% respectively of the estimated child population. The ideal is for every child to receive a primary treatment of two injections at about the age of one year, with further single injections at five and ten years. It is not claimed even with such treatment that absolute immunisation will be attained by every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of an immunised child, and that the risk of death is nearly thirty times as great.

TABLE VI.—INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN THE BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL, 1934-1945.

| Year.       | No. of Cases<br>Notified. | Incidence<br>Rate per<br>1,000<br>Population. | No. of<br>Deaths. | Mortality<br>Rate per<br>1,000<br>Population. | No. of<br>Children<br>Immunised<br>in each Year. |
|-------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|---|--|
| 1934 ... .. | 34 (1)                    | 0.73  | 3                 | 0.06  | —  |
| 1935 ... .. | 13 (1)                    | 0.29  | —                 | 0.00  | 167  |
| 1936 ... .. | 20 (1)                    | 0.39  | —                 | 0.00  | 500  |
| 1937 ... .. | 15 (3)                    | 0.26  | —                 | 0.00  | 520  |
| 1938 ... .. | 17 (3)                    | 0.29  | 1                 | 0.02  | 597  |
| 1939 ... .. | 8 (1)                     | 0.13  | —                 | 0.00  | 370  |
| 1940 ... .. | 6 (3)                     | 0.09  | —                 | 0.00  | 463  |
| 1941 ... .. | 15 (5)                    | 0.24  | —                 | 0.00  | 2654   |
| 1942 ... .. | 11 (6)                    | 0.18  | 1                 | 0.02  | 1727   |
| 1943 ... .. | 9 (—)                     | 0.15  | —                 | 0.00  | 1117   |
| 1944 ... .. | 6 (6)                     | 0.10  | —                 | 0.00  | 635  |
| 1945 ... .. | 10 (6)                    | 0.16  | 1                 | 0.02  | 853  |

Figures in parentheses denote that patient was in a residential institution.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified. As the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area, the Surrey County Council makes any necessary provision for the institutional treatment of infants suffering from this disease.

**TYPHOID FEVER.**—Four notifications of typhoid fever were received, one of which related to a patient in an L.C.C. hospital. Of the remaining three cases, two were a mother and daughter who arrived in this country by air from South Africa, having undoubtedly contracted the infection on the journey. The fourth case occurred in a school boy. The assumption is very strong that he contracted his infection within the district, but it was not possible to prove its origin.

The four cases of typhoid fever represent a case-rate of 0.06 per 1,000 civilian population, compared with that of 0.01 for England and Wales.

**PUERPERAL PYREXIA.**—Twenty-five cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, representing a case-rate of 29.83 per 1,000 total births, compared with the rate of 9.93 for England and Wales. The high rate is partly accounted for by the fact that twenty-one of the notifications received were in respect of patients in the maternity wards of the Epsom County Hospital, of which fourteen related to persons not normally resident in the Epsom and Ewell district.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The names of 101 persons were added to the tuberculosis register during the year. They include seventy-five names of persons already domiciled in the Borough, nineteen of persons who came to live in the district from other areas in which they had already been notified and seven of persons who died from tuberculosis without previous notification. Ninety-two of the notifications related to the pulmonary form of the disease, and nine to non-pulmonary. Sixty-seven of the persons affected were between the ages of twenty to forty-five years. Twenty-five deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis representing an annual death rate of 0.39 per thousand population. Four deaths were caused by non-pulmonary tuberculosis with a death rate of 0.06, giving a total tuberculosis death rate of 0.45, compared with a rate of 0.62 for England and Wales. An analysis into types of disease and age groups is to be found in Table VII.

For comparative purposes figures relating to the notification of and mortality from tuberculosis between the years 1938-45 are set out in Table VIII. The notification figures are those for persons domiciled in the district at the time of diagnosis of the disease. They show a deterioration on the 1938 figures, which were themselves above the average of several previous years. No doubt the cause for some of this increase can be found in the anxious and fatiguing conditions of the war, in the difficulty of maintaining an accustomed diet scale, particularly in regard to fats, and in overcrowding. It is indeed remarkable that the setback has not been more severe. An increasing incidence rate may also reflect an improved system of diagnosis, as for example, in the extended use of radiography. Mass miniature radiography has been used extensively in the services and in factories during the past three

years, and it now remains to adapt the system to reach the whole adult and adolescent population. Arrangements are being made between the Borough Council and the Surrey County Council for a visit to the district of the latter's mass radiography unit, the facilities of which will be at the disposal of all wishing to be examined. Some increase in the number of notifications may well result from this scheme.

The mortality figures are based on all deaths from tuberculosis assigned to the district and, for reasons given in the section of this report dealing with vital statistics, those for 1939 and subsequent years are not exactly comparable with pre-war years.

Comparing the war years themselves, a very definite rise occurred in 1940 and 1941, followed by a fall to a level at which the figures have remained constant. There should be good hopes of a further fall, for the methods of treatment of the disease continue to improve. Unfortunately shortage of sanatorium beds, due chiefly to a shortage of staff, is hindering the full application of these advances.

TABLE VII.

| Age Period.           | New Cases. |    |                |    | Deaths.    |    |                |    |
|-----------------------|------------|----|----------------|----|------------|----|----------------|----|
|                       | Pulmonary. |    | Non-pulmonary. |    | Pulmonary. |    | Non-pulmonary. |    |
|                       | M.         | F. | M.             | F. | M.         | F. | M.             | F. |
| Under 1 year ... ..   | —          | —  | —              | —  | —          | —  | —              | —  |
| 1 to 5 ... ..         | —          | 2  | —              | —  | —          | —  | —              | 1  |
| 5 to 10 ... ..        | —          | —  | —              | 1  | —          | —  | —              | —  |
| 10 to 15 ... ..       | —          | —  | 1              | 1  | —          | —  | —              | —  |
| 15 to 20 ... ..       | 3          | —  | 1              | 2  | —          | —  | 1              | —  |
| 20 to 25 ... ..       | 4          | 12 | —              | —  | 2          | 1  | —              | —  |
| 25 to 35 ... ..       | 14         | 18 | —              | —  | 3          | 1  | —              | —  |
| 35 to 45 ... ..       | 15         | 4  | 2              | —  | 5          | —  | 1              | —  |
| 45 to 55 ... ..       | 7          | 3  | —              | —  | 2          | 1  | —              | —  |
| 55 to 65 ... ..       | 3          | 1  | —              | 1  | 2          | 1  | —              | 1  |
| 65 and upwards ... .. | 5          | 1  | —              | —  | 5          | 2  | —              | —  |
|                       | 51         | 41 | 4              | 5  | 19         | 6  | 2              | 2  |

TABLE VIII.—BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL  
TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY, 1938-1945.

| Year.       | Population. | Total Primary Notifications. | Rate per 1,000 Population. | Total Deaths. | Death Rate per 1,000 Population. |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1938 ... .. | 59,930      | 58                           | 0.97                       | 16            | 0.27                             |
| 1939 ... .. | 62,960      | 53                           | 0.84                       | 27            | 0.42                             |
| 1940 ... .. | 63,190      | 58                           | 0.92                       | 38            | 0.60                             |
| 1941 ... .. | 61,990      | 80                           | 1.29                       | 41            | 0.66                             |
| 1942 ... .. | 61,130      | 74                           | 1.21                       | 27            | 0.43                             |
| 1943 ... .. | 60,650      | 69                           | 1.14                       | 31            | 0.49                             |
| 1944 ... .. | 60,270      | 79                           | 1.31                       | 26            | 0.45                             |
| 1945 ... .. | 62,830      | 75                           | 1.19                       | 29            | 0.45                             |







